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### **PRESS RELEASE**

A Meeting of all the Chairpersons, Drug Courts in Pakistan was held today under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mian Saqib Nisar, Chief Justice of Pakistan / Chairman National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC) in the Committee Room of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad for reviewing performance of the said courts.

The meeting was convened by the Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan, Secretary Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP). Mrs. Azra Perveen Qureshi, Chairperson, Drug Court, Lahore, Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim Asghar, Chairman, Drug Court, Bahawalpur, Mr. Chaudhry Muhammad Ilyas, Chairman, Drug Court, Faisalabad, Mr. Syed Asghar Ali, Chairman, Drug Court, Gujranwala, Mr. Waseem-ur-Rehman Khan Khakwani, Chairman, Drug Court, Multan, Mr. Muhammad Yar Gondal, Chairman, Drug Court, Rawalpindi, Mr. Imdad Hussain Khoso, Chairman, Drug Court, Karachi, Mr. Mohammad Tariq, Chairman, Drug Court, Peshawar, Mr. Mehta Rajesh Nath Kohli, Chairman, Drug Court, Quetta, Mr. Ghulam Taqi Sajid, Chairman, Drug Court, Islamabad and Mr. Khalid Teepu Rana, Director General (Human Right Cell) Supreme Court of Pakistan attended the meeting. On special invitation Khawaja Daud Ahmad, Additional Registrar (Administration) Supreme Court of Pakistan also attended the meeting.

Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan, Secretary LJCP presented the institution, pendency and disposal figures of the Drug Courts during January to June 2018. The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan/Chairman NJPMC showed displeasure on the slow disposal rates of the Drug Courts and observed that none of the courts have achieved a satisfactory disposal rate and firmly directed that the rate of disposal may be brought up to 60% within the next three months, to wipe out the pendency of cases. He furthermore cautioned that under performers would be strictly dealt with.

The Chairmen Drug Courts informed that accelerated disposal could not be achieved mainly due to the reason that the requisite staff and members of the Drug Courts are not available. Upon this, the Hon'ble Chairman NJPMC stated that shortage of staff etc. should not be an impediment in the dispensation of justice. However, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan/Chairman NJPMC further directed the Secretary LJCP to examine the Drug Laws in Pakistan for suggesting amendments therein for expeditious disposal of cases, moreover, also directed that the relevant ministries and high courts should be requested to make available resources to the Drug Courts. He further directed Khawaja Daud Ahmad, Additional Registrar (Administration) Supreme Court of Pakistan to also chalk out the problems of the Drug Courts and contact the relevant authorities for their immediate redressal.

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